

# Southeast News

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## LaGrange United Wins SEC Award

United Congregational Christian Church of LaGrange, GA, has been selected by the Task Force on Aging to receive the \$750 award for the best proposal for a program in their own church for the benefit of their aging members.

LaGrange United has a steep flight of thirteen steps that must be climbed in order to enter the sanctuary. The plan is to install a vertical lift which will cost \$7,053.00. Work was scheduled to begin in January.

The funds for the award were made possible from the Division of Health and Welfare, UCBHM, to help with the program on aging in the Southeast Conference. The Task Force on Aging consisted of Mrs. Peggy Hall, Chairwoman, Mrs. Imo Foster, Mrs. Nancy Kratz, Mr. Arthur Rinden, and Rev. Walter Hall, ex officio, all of the Pleasant Hill Community Church, UCC, Pleasant Hill, TN.

## Huguley Joins United Church

Huguley Congregational Christian Church, located in Lanett, Alabama, voted on February 4, 1981 to become a member congregation of the United Church of Christ. Over two-thirds of those members present at the especially called meeting voted in favor of affiliation, making Huguley the 39th congregation to unite with the UCC.

Begun in 1944, Huguley Church grew to a membership of 139 in the early 1960's. During that time a sanctuary was constructed with educational facilities later added.

Following the construction of a new sanctuary, the current congregation of some 70 members is working hard under the leadership of United Church pastor Alton Nixon to overcome debts incurred in the past.

We welcome Huguley Congregational

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DR. PAUL E. JOHNSON

## Johnson Installed At Montgomery First

The Rev. Dr. Paul E. Johnson was installed as Minister of the First Congregational Christian Church, UCC of Montgomery, Alabama during special ceremonies held on December 14, 1980.

Installed through the auspices of the Alabama-Tennessee Association, participants included Rev. Warren Blankenhorn representing the Southeast Conference and Ms. Louise Cox, Moderator of the East Alabama Association.

In addition to the service of installation, the occasion also included the dedication of the recently refurbished church building which has been designated an historical landmark by the Montgomery Landmarks Foundation.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Dr. Johnson received his B.A. degree from Talladega College in 1955 and his M.S. from Harvard University in 1957. He was awarded his M.Div. in 1958 from Hartford Theological Seminary and his Ed.D. from Auburn University in 1980.

After serving as Associate Minister of North Congregational UCC in New York

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## Appreciation Expressed

Caroline Lightbourne and family wish to express their appreciation to their many friends in the Southeast Conference for the many expressions of love and concern given them following the death of Rev. James Lightbourne on January 22.

Conference Minister for the Southern Conference at the time of his death, Rev. Lightbourne, Jr. was held in high esteem by the Southeast Conference where he was Convention Superintendent for nearly 10 years.

We all mourn his passing.

## UCC Youth Feel Good

### About Church

UCC youth leaders are generally more positive about themselves and their churches than are other church youth, according to a survey conducted by William J. McKinney, Jr., UCBHM research and evaluation secretary. He compared opinions of 997 UCC high school students polled at the National Youth Event last summer with a survey of 7,050 other church youth by the Search Institute of Minneapolis, MN.

Dr. McKinney found that 69% of the UCC teenagers feel "satisfied" with themselves, against 41% of other church youth. Some 84% of UCC students are confident about their "good qualities" and their capability versus 65% and 61% of other young church-goers.

Over 39% of the UCC teenagers, compared with 23% of other church youth, are "quite happy" with their churches, and 44%, as opposed to 31%, are "happy but have a few complaints."

While the survey indicated that only 42% read the Bible frequently, the same portion as among Gallup teenagers, the survey also indicated the UCC teenagers attend church and pray far more regularly than do participants in the Gallup poll.

— Keeping You Posted



REV. GRETCHEN DEVRIES

## OGHS Funds Go To Work

Some of the funds from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering are used by the Service Division of our United Church Board for World Ministries to support the work of the Rev. Gretchen DeVries. Ms. DeVries serves on the staff of the Asian Rural Institute in Nishinasuno, Japan.

ARI, as it is called, prepares students from more than 20 countries in Asia and Africa for ministries in rural areas. At present, ARI has students from twelve different countries: India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Korea, Japan, Liberia, and Ghana.

Ms. DeVries serves as the coordinator for the daily life of the participants and keeps communications flowing between the school and its graduates and between the school and its donors from various countries.

"One of the gratifying things that we experience here," says Ms. DeVries, "is the way the local farmers all help in our training program. In Japan only one percent of the people are Christians, so most of our neighbors are non-Christians. But we have students going every summer into various farms to learn specific skills, living in the homes and becoming good friends of these non-Christian families." Thus, the Asian Rural Institute is making a difference, not only in rural areas of the world, but also in Christian-Buddhist relations in Japan.

When you give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, you are supporting the Institute's important work. The suggested day for One Great Hour of Sharing is Sunday, March 29, 1981.

## Alabama Area Council Conducts Long Range Planning

Religious education was the subject of a long-range planning session conducted by the Alabama Area Council this past January. Participating in the session were over 100 young people and adults from the Central, North and East Alabama Associations, the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association as well as churches from West Georgia and the Ala-Tenn Association.

Focusing on the three areas of church school, Bible school and camping, there was much spirited discussion and evaluation and a number of recommendations.

In the area of church school and Bible school, youth indicated that most church school has little value to them due to listless teaching or material that fails to speak to their needs. Suggestions for pooling skills in teacher training and leadership in Bible schools were discussed.

Articulating appreciation for the present camping program, participants were anxious for the Alabama Area Council to "spread its wings" into other areas of camping beyond Mini-Camps. Suggestions were made for a full week of camping for youth in the three age groups of grades 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Family camping was suggested in addition to Caravan camping wherein tours to different UCC mission areas could be made.

A day which generated much spirit and energy, the Southern Alabama Area looks forward to new ventures in religious education!

## Ala-Tenn Youth "Reach-Out"

Youth of the Alabama-Tennessee Association held a regional "Reach-Out" day on January 25, 1981. With the purpose of having youth groups more active in Association activities "reach out" to youth groups less actively involved, the day was most successful involving 16 of the Association's 24 churches.

Composing the southern region, a total of 28 youth and adults from Huntsville, Montgomery and Birmingham First churches gathered together for a program at Birmingham Pilgrim UCC.

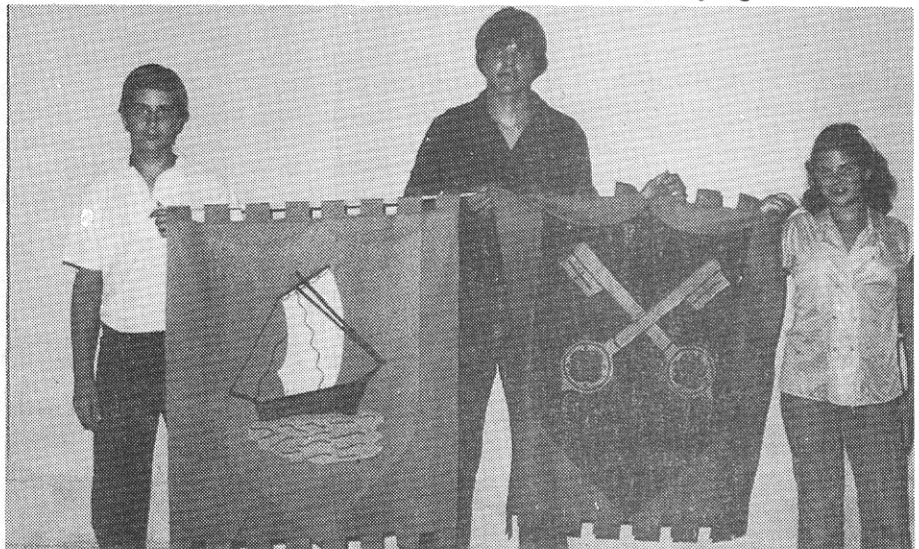
In the eastern part of the Association, some 25 youth and adults were hosted by the youth group of Crossville, TN, UCC. Participating churches included Knoxville, Sweetwater, Glen Mary and Robbins UCC.

Postponed to March 1, the central cluster gathered for lunch and a program at Nashville First E&R. Belvidere, Nashville Howard and Nashville Brookmeade youth all participated in that program.

The next scheduled activity of the Ala-Tenn Association Youth is a Work Camp to be held March 20-22 at Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN. Planned activities include introduction to the extensive mission heritage of the UCC in Pleasant Hill as well as helping in the Uplands spring clean up.

## Huguley -Cont'd.

Christian Church to the fellowship of the United Church of Christ and look forward to our future ministry together!



Members of Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church, Pine Mountain, GA [l-r] Michael Thompson, Jamie and Mechelle Winkles-Hodnett have been joined by other young people in making Apostle's Banners. A new banner is displayed in the sanctuary each month.



## A Matter of Percents

A person from a foreign country visiting a friend in this country noticed his friend placing an offering in the offering plate at church. He asked, "Do you have to pay to go to church?" "No," was the reply, "but I give 10 percent of my income to the church for God's Work."

Sometime later, after eating a meal at a restaurant, the visitor also saw his friend placing money at his plate and asked about it. He was told, "it is customary to leave a 15 percent tip for the waitress."

The visitor then said, "Oh, then you think more of her services than you do of God's!"

Some of us give none, some a little, some 10 percent and some go a second mile. Study your stewardship. Will you rob God of what is rightfully God's — given to us as God's good stewards? If each of us does our part, there will be no financial problem!



Church of the Savior, UCC, Knoxville, TN

## CURT'S NUGGETS

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee:

To remove worry wrinkles, get your faith lifted.

## Johnson - Cont'd.

City, Dr. Johnson entered active duty with the U.S. Army serving overseas in Vietnam.

Dr. Johnson is married to the former Shirley Williams. The Johnsons have two children, Paula Rene and Darryl Edwin.

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## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

### Knoxville, TN, Church of the Savior, UCC

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the northeast corner of the Conference is Church of the Savior, UCC, located in Knoxville, TN. Organized in 1956 as First Congregational Church of Knoxville, inner city changes dictated that the congregation consider moving from its large downtown church structure.

In 1968 the church changed not only its location but its name. Relocating to a 10 acre lot in West Knoxville, Church of the Savior, UCC began to worship in a large stone house located on the property. In 1971 the congregation broke ground for its present structure. Costing \$117,000, the building was designed as an "action center" to serve both for worship, study and fellowship and as a place for community programs. The congregation moved into the new building in July, 1972.

With some 150 members, the congregation is proud of its outreach efforts. In addition to its Child Care Center, the church operates a Food Pantry which serves the hungry all across Knoxville. The Church is also presently sponsoring three Vietnamese refugee families. The "Servant of All" program helps members

of the congregation to minister to one another through a variety of services all the way from providing transportation to repairing leaky faucets!

Looking forward to the future, Church of the Savior sees its biggest challenge in the area of church growth and increased United Church identity.

Rev. John Lackey is the church's pastor.

## Cox Leads East

### Alabama Planning

Ms. Louise Cox, the first woman Moderator in the history of the East Alabama Association, led the East Alabama Association in an all day planning session held on January 17, 1981 at Pleasant Grove Church near LaFayette, AL.

Participating in the session were members of the East Alabama Executive Committee, all members of Association committees, Fellowship Officers and "Living Coin of the UCC Women" officers.

The first time that all members of Association committees had been invited to such a meeting, participants reviewed the past achievements of the Association and helped establish objectives and goals for strengthening the "witness" of local congregations as well as the Association over the next two years.

# NEWS and NOTES

Construction of the initial church building at Fairfield Glade, TN, Community Church is well underway. The congregation hopes to be housed in the new structure by Easter. Fairfield Glade is one of four recent Southeast Conference new church starts and is jointly affiliated with the United Presbyterian Church.

For local congregations seeking to improve their ministry to handicapped persons, a Resource Packet is available from the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, 132 W. 31st St., New York, N.Y. 10001 for \$5.00. This resource packet is designed to assist local churches in multiple ministries to persons with handicaps.

Dr. David Beebe, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Chattanooga, TN, is one of five instructors at the Eighth Annual Thorne Sparkman School of Religion, sponsored by the Chattanooga area Episcopal churches and held during Lent. Dr. Beebe's course is entitled: "Looking For the Real — A study of prayer, devotion and disciplined life."

Do you have itchy feet? Are you a secondary teacher of English, mathematics or science? If your answer is "yes" to both questions, there's an adventure awaiting you in Turkey through the English-language secondary schools sponsored by the United Church Board for World Ministries. Opportunities are available for persons below and above retirement age. For further information write: Overseas Personnel Office, United Church Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10115.

Birmingham, AL, Pilgrim UCC has initiated a new venture in youth ministry. A husband and wife team, Jim and Bunny

Self, have agreed to provide leadership for this important function of the church.

Habitat for Humanity dedicated its 3rd house in Scott-Morgan Counties on January 18. Moving into the home were Charlie and Muri Morgan and their five children. The Morgans waited 14 months for their home. Charlie Morgan, who is blind, "complained" shortly after moving in that it was the first time he couldn't feel cold air coming through the floor. The Morgans now own their "dream home" after renting for 17 years.

More than 700 persons were served this past Christmas by the Christmas Stores operated through the Morgan-Scott Project. Providing clothing and toys at a reduced price for families that otherwise could not provide Christmas presents, the Christmas Stores gave joy to those who otherwise would have faced a bleak Christmas. Toys and clothing were received from a number of Southeast Conference churches.

Some 50 persons have written meditations for a 1981 Lenten booklet on "Liberation and Unity" sponsored by the 10-denomination Consultation On Church Union (COCU) and black church groups. Quantities can be ordered from COCU at 228 Alexander Street, Princeton, N.Y. 08540.

A "Family Life Suitcase" filled with materials concerning family life is available from the Conference Office. Materials — covering such topics as marriage and divorce, lifestyles, sex-role socialization — may all be duplicated. Write: Laura Long, Southeast Conference, UCC, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga, 30359.



Members, Liberty Congregational Church, Bowman, GA

## Liberty Church Observes Award Sunday

An Awards Sunday was recently observed at Liberty Congregational Church, Bowman, GA. Sunday School attendance pins were presented to thirteen members.

Receiving pins were Jimmy Crocker, Jeremy Crocker, Brad Crocker, Paul Floyd, Demenchia Crocker, Kelly Floyd, Alex Beasley, Deana Floyd, Davie Floyd, Sylvia Floyd, Jean Floyd, Steven Floyd and Blennie Burden.

The church has completed a Sunday school, dining and recreation Annex begun two years ago on a pay-as-we-build plan.

The church's pastor, Dr. Melvin Dollar and his wife have been on an extended vacation from which they will return on March 7th.

## PRIORITIES

"It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber!" — John Connor

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